



MI-CW3109

# Michigan Crop Weather

August 3, 2009

## Cool with Scattered Rain

Five days were suitable for fieldwork during the week ending August 2, according to the USDA, NASS, Michigan Field Office. Precipitation varied from 0.08 inches in the west central Lower Peninsula to 0.86 inches in the northeast Lower Peninsula. Average temperatures ranged from 4 degrees below normal in the western upper Peninsula to 2 degrees below normal in the eastern Upper Peninsula and northwest, northeast, west central, central, east central, and southeast Lower Peninsula. Growers were still reporting the need for warmer temperatures and rain to advance crop development. A grower in the southwest commented, "Overall crops look good. Warmer, dryer weather is needed for timely maturity. Continuing scattered rainfall is hindering making dry hay and harvesting wheat." Another grower in the west central commented, "We made it through July with only .6 inches of rain. I looked back through my records to 1974, and only in July of 1988, the year of the drought, did we receive less rain."

## Field Crops

Cool temperatures and dry weather continued and was impeding crop progress. Reports, from all areas of the State, expressed concerns about the dry weather and cool temperatures. A reporter in the southeast stated, "We will need a terrific second-half of the growing season to get good yields." **Wheat** harvest continued in many areas. However there were numerous reports of sprouting. In the Thumb, it was reported that some elevators were not accepting wheat at this time. The presence of wheat sprouts in loads was reported to be as high as 20%. Therefore, the crop can be primarily sold as livestock feed, not as grain as originally intended. Farmers continued to assess damage to the crop. Test weights, in the central part of the State, were low for **oats**. **Corn** and **soybeans** would benefit from an all day rain soaker, as it would abet pod setting and ear development. Both crops were short, but growing. Due to a late harvest, double-cropped soybeans will be minimal, if any, this year. **Alfalfa** harvest has been difficult due to daily rains, forecasts of precipitation and cooler temperatures. Rains in previous weeks proved to be beneficial for **sugarbeets**, as the crop has responded positively. **Dry beans** development continued.

Soil moisture for week ending 08/02/09

Stratum	Very short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Topsoil	18	28	52	2
Subsoil	10	33	56	1

Crop condition for week ending 08/02/09

Crop	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
All Hay	2	10	29	49	10
Corn	5	13	32	42	8
Dry beans	4	12	40	39	5
Oats	2	5	26	62	5
Pasture	7	13	39	36	5
Soybeans	5	12	32	44	7
Winter Wheat	10	7	17	46	20

## Fruit

**Apples** continued to size well in the southwest; most were over two inches with some early varieties at three inches in size; fruit size and quality looked excellent. In the southeast, harvest of summer varieties neared completion. **Blueberry** harvest continued with midseason varieties. **Peach** harvest of early varieties was underway; bacterial spot symptoms were evident. Peach size suffered in areas where moisture was short. In the Grand Rapids area, early peach harvest was underway and quality was excellent. **Pears** were 43 mm in the northwest, 1.75 inches in the southeast, and 2 inches in diameter in the southwest; pear psylla damage on foliage and fruit was found. European **plums** were 1.25 inches in diameter while harvest of Japanese plums was underway in the southwest; apple maggots were a problem in ripening plums. Red **raspberry** harvest was underway in the northwest. **Strawberry** renovation was completed in the southeast. **Sweet cherry** harvest was completed in the west central; fruit size and quality were excellent. **Tart cherry** harvest continued; fruit cracking was a concern in the northwest with the recent rainfall. In the southwest, fruit quality was variable. **Grape** clusters looked good in the southwest and northwest.

## Vegetables

**Sweet corn** harvest picked up across the State this week; growers reported that European corn borer traps were down, but more western bean cutworms have been observed. **Pumpkin** development continued across the State; in the south, growers reported the crop in good condition, while in Oceana county, pumpkin development was behind schedule. In the east central region, **carrot** harvest was underway on the muck soils. In the Grand Rapids area, **celery** harvest was in full swing; growers reported good yields and quality, with few disease and insect problems. **Onion** development continued with harvest not expected for several weeks. **Radish**, **red beets**, **lettuce** and **cole crops** were growing well where adequate water was applied. In the southwest, harvest of **peppers**, **eggplant**, **cantaloup**, and **tomatoes** began this week. Growers reported fruit size in tomatoes was somewhat larger than normal due to cool temperatures. **Watermelon** and cantaloupes continued to flower and develop runners. **Cucumber**, **yellow squash** and **zucchini** harvest continued in the southwest with little difficulty. Downy mildew was observed on cucumbers, onions, squash, and melons in different parts of the State; growers were advised to take immediate protective measures. In the southeast, some early **potatoes** were harvested with no major problems reported. In St. Joseph county, potato late blight was confirmed in three fields; growers were advised to be extra vigilant when scouting fields for late blight.

Crop progress for week ending 08/02/09

Crop	This week	Last week	Last year	5-year average
	Inches	Inches	Inches	Inches
Corn, height	66	55	75	71
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
All hay, second cutting	63	56	72	74
All hay, third cutting	7	5	17	14
Blueberries, harvested	57	<sup>1</sup> 52	45	49
Corn, silked	47	23	83	83
Corn, dough	1	0	12	10
Dry beans, blooming	32	18	61	66
Dry beans, setting pods	10	4	10	27
Oats, turning yellow	84	60	84	90
Oats, harvested	9	5	19	32
Peaches, harvested	21	8	30	25
Potatoes, harvested	7	0	8	4
Soybeans, blooming	69	47	83	81
Soybeans, setting pods	15	10	48	50
Tart cherries, harvested	55	25	87	87
Winter wheat, harvested	78	38	95	95

<sup>1</sup> Revised

Michigan Weather Summary for Week Ending 08/02/09 <sup>1</sup>

Station	Temperature			Cumulative growing degree days <sup>2</sup>			Precipitation					
	Maximum	Minimum	Departure from normal	2009	2008	Normal	This week	Last two weeks	Last four weeks	Since April 1	Normal	
											Since April 1	For month
Ironwood	79	45		1,049	1,132		0.37	1.01	1.80	9.45		
Marquette	79	45		937	1,059		0.37	1.01	1.80	9.46		
Stephenson	83	47		1,221	1,388		0.52	0.85	0.99	9.87		
Western UP	83	45	-4	1,039	1,132	1,212	0.38	1.17	1.79	9.72	12.94	3.69
Cornell	81	49		1,140	1,246		0.84	2.22	2.44	9.26		
Sault St Marie	75	49		945	1,067		0.23	1.29	2.07	9.61		
Eastern UP	81	49	-2	955	1,075	1,031	0.75	1.81	2.47	10.96	12.15	3.53
Beulah	81	54		1,273	1,487		1.14	2.05	2.21	11.83		
Lake City	79	48		1,219	1,431		0.54	1.67	1.79	12.75		
Old Mission	82	51		1,173	1,409		0.27	1.80	2.20	8.40		
Pellston	78	46		1,104	1,354		0.60	1.31	1.67	7.02		
Northwest	82	46	-2	1,158	1,372	1,375	0.50	1.36	1.67	8.97	11.51	3.11
Alpena	82	50		1,181	1,419		0.72	3.59	3.98	13.23		
Houghton Lake	80	50		1,223	1,476		1.03	3.31	3.55	13.16		
Rogers City	81	54		1,165	1,364		1.21	4.06	4.97	13.73		
Northeast	82	50	-2	1,190	1,427	1,328	0.86	3.24	3.69	12.79	11.57	3.12
Fremont	80	52		1,393	1,577		0.20	0.53	1.35	10.21		
Hart	81	52		1,316	1,491		0.00	0.61	0.84	12.99		
Muskegon	81	57		1,504	1,558		0.10	0.13	0.95	10.39		
West Central	83	51	-2	1,386	1,524	1,508	0.08	0.87	1.41	11.95	11.49	3.60
Alma	85	55		1,435	1,687		0.11	0.67	0.96	14.32		
Big Rapids	83	54		1,370	1,616		0.41	0.92	1.40	12.51		
Central	85	51	-2	1,393	1,633	1,577	0.20	0.96	1.43	12.41	12.43	3.64
Bad Axe	83	56		1,310	1,621		0.10	3.97	4.39	15.05		
Pigeon	82	54		1,301	1,566		0.36	3.54	3.71	14.57		
Saginaw	84	54		1,460	1,731		0.15	1.09	1.50	13.27		
Standish	82	50		1,302	1,525		0.11	1.41	1.48	11.74		
East Central	84	50	-2	1,308	1,627	1,561	0.16	2.32	2.60	14.01	11.42	2.93
Fennville	81	54		1,464	1,592		0.03	0.03	1.20	13.76		
Grand Rapids	84	54		1,627	1,828		0.19	0.28	2.48	16.73		
Holland	85	56		1,709	1,824		0.28	0.93	3.57	23.17		
South Bend, IN	83	54		1,766	1,901		1.02	1.42	2.37	14.62		
Watervliet	83	54		1,592	1,733		0.22	0.46	1.34	12.69		
Southwest	89	51	-3	1,609	1,753	1,698	0.26	0.50	1.51	13.97	13.30	3.18
Belding	81	52		1,401	1,624		0.20	2.83	3.27	13.97		
Coldwater	83	51		1,656	1,731		0.26	0.93	1.11	13.96		
Lansing	84	55		1,538	1,780		0.09	2.40	2.81	17.96		
South Central	84	49	-3	1,513	1,733	1,683	0.79	1.89	2.65	15.57	13.13	3.36
Detroit	84	59		1,738	1,951		0.18	1.17	2.49	15.75		
Flint	84	52		1,501	1,831		0.07	0.84	2.26	17.10		
Romeo	84	54		1,496	1,712		0.11	1.30	1.54	11.74		
Tipton	84	50		1,572	1,770		0.13	0.60	1.14	13.06		
Toledo, OH	85	56		1,773	1,930		0.61	1.64	2.06	13.58		
Southeast	86	50	-2	1,581	1,812	1,662	0.20	0.82	1.38	12.93	12.71	3.12

<sup>1</sup>Issued by the USDA, NASS, Michigan Field Office in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Commerce, Michigan State University's Cooperative Extension Service, Agricultural Meteorologist, Department of Geography, and Crop Advisory Team ALERTS.

<sup>2</sup>Growing degree days (GDD) is the sum of daily mean temperatures minus 50 per day, 86 maximum and 50 minimum. The GDD is accumulative from April 1.

USDA, NASS, Michigan Field Office  
P.O. Box 26248  
Lansing, Michigan 48909-6248  
(517) 324-5300 FAX (517) 324-5299  
E-mail: [nass-mi@nass.usda.gov](mailto:nass-mi@nass.usda.gov)